

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/768,204, filed January 22, 2001.

In the initial Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-17 and 34-54 were cancelled without prejudice. In the present Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, claims 19-33 are amended. Thus, claims 18-33 and 40-42 are pending in the present application.

In view of the following it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the claims at an early date is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

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May 11, 2004
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Respectfully submitted,

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